Variety of paddy	MSP per quintal
Common	Rs. 530*
Grade 'A'	Rs. 560*

*This does not include the Special Drought Relief Price of Rs. 20 per quintal.

3. Rice is allocated to various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for distribution to various categories of consumers at fixed Central Issue Prices. In addition, rice is also allocated to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for distribution under other Welfare Schemes.

India's help to safeguard Iranian oil tankers

*246. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has sought India's help to safeguard transiting oil tankers in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

India's share in international IT market

†*247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite swift development of the Indian information technology industry the country's share in international industrial market is only 1.6 per cent and the country depends mainly on North-American market where 67 per cent of software is exported from India; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to increase the export of Indian Software to the fast growing markets of Germany, Japan, France and other countries in order to reduce dependence on North-American market?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.